

R. Grosett (C.)

H I N T S
P R E P A R A T O R Y
TO THE SERIOUS
CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION,
OF THE SUNDRY
F I S H E R I E S
OF THIS KINGDOM.

MOST HUMBL Y ADDRESS ED
TO HIS EXCELLENCY
JOHN EARL OF BUCKINGHAM
LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL and GENERAL
GOVERNOR OF IRELAND:

The RIGHT HONOURABLE the LORDS SPIRITUAL and
TEMPORAL:

The RIGHT HONOURABLE and HONOURABLE, the
KNIGHTS, CITIZENS, and BURGESSES,

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

*The man will take TO-DAY, who's truly wise,
For in Fate's dreary womb, TO-MORROW lies.*



D U B L I N:

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M,DCC,LXXVIII.

H I N T S

P R E F A C E

TO THE EDITOR

CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

OF THE SUNDAY

F I S H E R I E S

OF THIS KINGDOM

MOST HUMBL Y A D D R E S S E D

TO HIS EXCELLENCY
JOHN EARL OF BUCKINGHAM

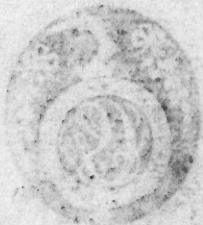
LORD CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER
AND GENERAL

GOVERNOR

The Right Honorable and Honorable,
The Right Honorable and Honorable,
Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses,

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The man will take to-day, who's truly told,
For in Parliament's room, to-morrow told.



D. U. B. I. N.

Printed by the Author, by John ...

... ..

The Right Hon^{ble}
Will^m Burton Esq^r

Sir Your chearfull concurrence
to promote every thing that has a probable
tendency to the good of this Country, fully
entitles you to every tribute that can be paid
you, as a Lover of Arts, Sciences, & Manufactures.

The essential Aid I have experienced from
your very condescending attention to the
substance of the annexed Extract, claims
my warmest expressions of gratitude
as such I chearfully embrace the Honor
of an opportunity to pay my Mite
earnestly wishing that the Fishers of
this Kingdom may gratefully date and
attribute their rise to your indefatigable
interference in the matter - permit me
to assure you that I shall ever take a
most attentive pleasure in obeying the
most minute of your commands to the
utmost of my slender abilities that I may
deserve the Honor of being numbered
Amongst

Sir

Your Much Obedient
& Most Obedient
Hble Serv^t

Char^s Grossett

Dublin y^e
25 Feb^y 1778

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Hints Preparatory, &c.

Non est, crede mihi, sapientis dicere, vivam:

Sera nimis vita est crastina, vive bodie.

MART. Epig. 16. Lib. 1.

— *Dum loquimur, fugerit invida*

Ætas: carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero.

HOR. Lib. 1. Od. 11.

THE KING as supreme guardian, the statesman, the minister, and representatives of the nation, are jointly, and severally bound in their different spheres, by their constitutional creed, to vigil for the good of the community. While each individual of the great body, is equally bound by his allegiance, to support their salutary measures to the extent of his ability. Of course it becomes the natural duty of every subject, to point out such matters as have a probable tendency to the general good, that they may be duly weighed by the nation's protectors.

Hints to men of penetration, have often given birth to the most salutary, beneficial, and glorious enterprises; therefore we may reasonably hope, from the spirit, vigilance, and penetration of the present legislature, to see a matter of the utmost consequence to this nation brought to maturity;

B

it

it being the indisputable policy of every state, to endeavour by all possible means to establish, promote, and encourage the cultivation, and manufacture of such articles as may be followed with peculiar advantages to the nation at large. Thus, in conformity with the general obligation, an individual of the great body humbly hopes, that what is now offered, will be considered and accepted as a grateful tribute, and that it will not be deemed, totally unworthy the attention and perusal of all well-wishers to this country.

The present infant state of the *Irish* Fisheries, compared with the popular and national advantages which may be derived from putting the fisheries of this kingdom, upon a respectable and permanent footing, has induced me to give the matter a very deliberate consideration, in order to discover the most effectual and expedient means to regulate and encourage it.

I shall therefore endeavour concisely, to communicate the fruits of my scrutiny, as well as the ideas which have occurred during the discussion. I propose making as few digressions as possible, and yet as some are indispensable, I hope that such as occur may be tolerated.

Commerce is the only true source of riches; through it, empires and individuals have ever flourished; well regulated trade is the natural means to enrich the state, as it never fails to throw the balance in favour of the country where it is properly fostered and protected.

Upon a debate in the great council, concerning the improvement of commerce in *France*, and *East-India*

India trade was proposed as a primary object. But the famous monsieur *Colbert*, freely delivered his opinion to the king, to this purpose, "That the
 " most speedy and effectual way of encreasing the
 " riches of the kingdom, was, to establish and
 " encourage manufactures at home, for employ-
 " ing the poor, in which idle people might be fore-
 " ed to work." And, with all submission, it may be safely asserted, that without a competent idea of the nature and consequence of the trade and commerce of a nation, it is impossible to judge or determine, what is, or what is not, for the real good of the community.

Commerce is the only true sterling test of the advantages or disadvantages originated in ministerial measures, as scarcely any political plan can be proposed, but must affect trade more or less, in one shape or another. Commerce is a science, on which most other arts and sciences are dependent, and is certainly reducible to as demonstrative a system, as any other science whatever.

Thus when men at the helm, are ignorant of this essential part, it little avails that they are versed in almost every other abstracted theory. *We are a trading nation*, all with us depends on commerce, and where that is not made the first consideration with the legislature, so far as they deviate from it, just so far do they err, and the nation is proportionably injured.

Balance of trade, is well understood to be that difference which every nation has for or against itself, upon comparison of their whole imports and exports; of course, that nation has the balance most in its favour, in proportion as the amount of its

exports exceeds the general amount of its imports : for if the imports exceed the general amount of exports, the balance or difference must either be consumed or lost ; be that as it will, such difference is an absolute loss, and must evidently be paid for in bullion——or the land successively mortgaged——till such time as the real inhabitants shall not have a single acre to call their own.

If this matter was in general seriously attended to, instead of *England's* being the well known mortgagee of many capital tracts of land in this kingdom, a very few years would so far turn the tables, as to put it in the power of *Ireland* not only to discharge her general debt to *England*, but even enable her to subscribe to their general loans, or lend money to their individuals. It must be confessed, that the proposed general reformation, requires vigilance, unanimity, and a reasonable time to bring it about : while it is equally evident, that unless we begin to draw the line by prudent degrees towards the general point, we shall never arrive at the wished-for end.

No branch of business can be established which promises fairer, *than the fisheries of this kingdom, if once put upon a respectable and permanent footing* ; of course, it merits a very deliberate consideration, in its sundry branches, under their respective titles ; duly attending to the sundry original Acts of Parliament now extant, relative to the subject, and intended to promote the progress of the fisheries ; which however, from various unforeseen circumstances, have hitherto fallen short of producing the wished-for salutary and national beneficial effects. The sundry fisheries consist of

HERRING,

HERRING,
COD, LING, and WHITE-FISH,
WHALE, SEAL, and SUN-FISH,

To enter into the particular history of fishing or fisheries, would not be productive of essential discoveries equal to the trouble: it would be a work more curious than useful.—Periods could easily be pointed out, when fish was held of no value both in *England* and *Ireland*—of course, unworthy legislative attention. During the infancy of commerce, manufactures and sciences in *England*, when the land was thinly sown with *Danes* and *Saxons*, when provisions were so superabundant in proportion to the number of inhabitants, that corn was at three-pence the peck; fish then was not thought worth the trouble of catching.—In *Ireland*, where the quantity and superabundance of provisions were still greater in proportion to the inhabitants, fish was considered of no value, as it made the fisherman no adequate return for his trouble. The few fisheries that were originally carried on in *Ireland*, were suspended, nay annihilated, at the time when the great massacre in *Ireland*, and the rebellion in *England* broke out; and from that time lay dormant, and neglected, till the latter part of the sixteenth century, when the duke of *Ormond* in 1664, in his 4th instruction to the council of trade, delivered himself in the following terms:

YOU ARE TO CONSIDER BY WHAT MEANS
THE FISHING TRADE MAY BE MOST IMPROVED
IN THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND.

—It being a matter he wished they would attend to, as he plainly perceived the advantages that thereby might be derived to the nation,

Soon

Soon after that period a company of adventurers from *London*, began the Salmon-fishery of the *Bann*, but totally for exportation.

By what has already been stated, it is easy to account why so profitable a branch of commerce (as the fisheries are likely to be in this our day) had been permitted to lay so long dormant, and unattended to in former times.

The great increase of population, the vast demand for provisions from foreign countries, and the real advantages diffused and experienced, from a well regulated commerce—evidently render the fisheries of this country a most essential object of national and legislative attention—As it alone is capable of producing the most salutary consequences, the nation could wish—By keeping its people at home, in consequence of a regular employ, which will afford even the poorest a comfortable subsistence for their labour,—at the same time, that by degrees, it must enrich the nation.

If we pay the least attention to the original state of the *Dutch* fisheries, or by what means they raised themselves to their present state of opulence, we will find that they were absolutely nothing more than mere fishermen, who had collected themselves into a small body, from different quarters, and lived in huts, erected upon a spot then called *Damsluys*, which still retains its name; but to the astonishment of travellers, when enquired for, will be found in the center of the famous city of *Amsterdam*; which though originally nothing better than a poor fishing hamlet, now pretends to dispute consequence with the first trading city of the known world—*London*.

Early

Early in the 12th century their progress was so great, that the *Harlemers*, and *Waterlanders* became jealous of them, embraced a frivolous opportunity of joining *John VI.* count *Florent*, attacked the poor fishermen, and totally destroyed their habitations to the very foundations. In 100, they found themselves re-assembled in a considerable body, on the old spot; and in 1342, they obtained a renewal of their privileges from the then reigning count *Florent*, *William IV.*—In 1346, the lordship of that domain devolved to the earls of *Holland* by marriage, since which they have increased by degrees to their present pitch of undoubted opulence.

Their great increase of people, in process of time, obliged them to seek new fields of employment.—Of course, none could be more eligible than the fishery which they discovered on the coasts of *Ireland*, and western islands of *Scotland*. This branch they stuck closely to, till we discovered the whale fishery in queen *Elizabeth's* time.—In 1598, the *English* carried on that branch unrivaled, till the time of *James* the first.—In 1612, the *Hollanders* sent their first ship to *Spitsbergen*, or *Greenland*, in hopes of reaping a part of the benefit of that most beneficial discovery. The *English* claimed the property, as the first discoverers, and would not allow the *Dutch* to fish thereabout, or have any share in so profitable a trade. The contest ran high, and in 1613, they attacked their ships, took two of them, and brought them to *England*, with all the oil of the whales they had killed, and all their tackle and implements.—

The *Dutch* estimated their loss on that occasion at 130,000 guilders, or 12,500 l. the ships being full laden, having made a successful fishery.

Even

Even this did not discourage the *Dutch*, for they continued to fish, which occasioned frequent bickerings between them and the *English*, till the year 1617, when the *English* attacked them hostilely a second time; but not proving sufficiently strong, they were worsted; and the *Hollanders* took one of the *English* ships, and carried her to *Holland*.

The States General unwilling to give offence to king *James*, caused the ship to be restored, with all that was in her; and in order to prevent the like for the future, the States sent over a deputation to *England*, to treat upon the subject of the freedom of the fishery; the king avoided giving any absolute decision, in point of right; yet at the same time his majesty not encouraging the *English* merchants to disturb the *Dutch*, it remained a matter undetermined, and both parties went on fishing as before. Soon after the *Danes*, *Hamburgers* and *French* began, and have ever since continued to fish in those seas.

The *Dutch* have found so essential an interest in the continuance of fisheries, that they do give every possible encouragement to the prosecution of them. By inattention, we lost the sway in the *Greenland* fisheries, though the first discoverers: and, by negligence, we have suffered the *Dutch* to raise immense fortunes from our shores, by the Herring fisheries.—Their uninterrupted possession of that lucrative branch of traffic, was what originally gave birth to their now general commercial intercourse, and consequence, with every traffick-
ing quarter of the world.

Our

OUR SEAS WERE THEIR ONLY ORIGINAL MINES, as acknowledged by the *Dutch*, and may be seen on the face of one of their proclamations for the encouragement of the fisheries, bearing date *ann.* 1624; they therein call it their *Golden Mine*, from whence they have long derived a staple commodity, to barter against articles which other nations had to spare; it being well known, that barter was the original mode of traffic, not totally laid aside at this day, notwithstanding the medium of Bullion was found necessary to facilitate a general commerce. It is no uncommon thing from this kingdom, to consign provisions to *Portugal*, and receive the returns in fruit, salt, or wine, which is actual barter. In like manner, the *Dutch* have ever disposed of their fish, for convenient commodities from other countries.

We have records in 1663, of 500 ton of Cod and Ling being taken in one day in the *English* seas, which is confirmed by sir *John Burroughs*.

The *Dutch* have constantly on our coast upwards of 200 doggers of 150 tons each, and above 700 weel-boats from 60 to 100 each. As to the number of busses employed in the Herring fishery, they are almost incredible. In *Holland* they are reputed 6400 vessels;—but to the great shame of this nation, there are constantly 400 *Dutch* vessels every season, who fish upon the *Cromer* coast, and do actually and publicly sell their cargoes at the *Yarmouth* fair for Herrings; for the regulation of which, there are sundry clauses in the *English* acts, Vide 31 *Edw.* 3. ch. 2. Exclusive of every other lucrative consideration, This nursery to the *Dutch*, produces and supports above 80,000 seamen.

It is well known that there are many capital marts open to receive well cured fish, or produce of fish of every kind, from the herring to the whale; consequently, there is little danger of the matter being over-done by us, especially as we have every reason to suppose, we can carry it on with much more convenience, than any other nation which now follows it.

To allow the *Dutch* to follow this great branch of business unrivaled, and on our coast, is to the full as absurd, as if we were to manure the land, till and sow the seed, and then allow them to reap and sell us the crop.

Nothing but indolent infatuation can be pleaded as an excuse.

It is an uncontroverted fact, that so far back as 1633, the *Dutch* made five millions of florins a year by the Herring fishery, which has still continued to encrease.

The custom and tenth fish annually paid into their treasury, falls little short of one million sterling. Is it not astonishing that the *Dutch* should do all this, who only have four maritime provinces, and not one good natural harbour on their whole coast? Still they find it turn to account, to make and support ports made by art, at a vast annual expence, after which they must make a long voyage, and keep the sea in all weathers, in order to get their cargoes on this coast; yet, they undersell, and are constantly at market before us—to our great shame and immense national loss.

The

The situation of this island, seems as if by nature originally destined to be the general European mart, or magazine for *African, American, or Asiatic* commodities. The access to, and departure from it, being evidently more commodious than any other spot in *Europe*. Why then under such advantages should we leave unpursued and neglected, so essential a branch as the fisheries?—which to us in a very few years, would prove many degrees, more advantageous than to the *Dutch*; and would furnish capitals to push any lucrative branch of foreign commerce—From which we are now debarred, merely for want of capitals.

Though at the same time, I must say, that there is not in *Europe*, any other so extensive a branch of business, that is capable of affording so valuable a return to the adventurers, as *these very fisheries*, if properly regulated, encouraged, and managed.

It is well known, that flourishing commerce advances the demand and value of every staple commodity which that country produces, where it is carried on. Thus it is evident, that gentlemen of landed property, must be proportionally benefited in course of time: for no lands in the world pay more to their landlords than those of *Holland*.

Thus the advancement of trade is a common cause, and equally consequential to every individual, who either wishes himself or his country well.

I hope the true policy and general utility of attending to the promotion and encouragement of
C 2
fisheries,

fisheries, in the *Irish Seas*, is so self-evident to every thinking individual, and well-wisher to this country, as renders it almost needless to do more, than point out the means, in order to secure a general concurrence of sentiments, and unanimous juncture of efforts, to encourage and bring them to perfection.

The lights already thrown on this subject, by an honourable member of the house of commons, (Sir L——s O'B——n) in two speeches last sessions of parliament, reflects great honour. They need very little heightening, and still, there is an absolute necessity of a minuter investigation, in order to set this business in its proper point of view, that it may receive such sanction, as may be deemed adequate to invigorate so popular and national an object.

It is easy to prove, that the many salutary advantages to be obtained by the promotion of fisheries so near home, are no less interesting to *Great Britain*, than immediately lucrative to *Ireland*.

Ireland it is true, will reap the first benefits of an establishment, which employs her people, in a business which will afford them a comfortable subsistence, while it produces a staple commodity, which will extend its commerce, and finally enrich many of its individuals; and of course, must make the very face of the country flourish.

Great Britain will, on the other hand, have the satisfaction of seeing *Ireland* flourish under its auspices; while by the establishment and success of these fisheries, she will have the command of a
most

most capital nursery for seamen.—THE WELL-KNOWN BULWARK OF BRITISH EMPIRE.

This sole consideration, ought to engage the voice of every British subject, to support so salutary a measure; especially as there is even a great possibility of regulating matters so, as to protect the necessary hands for the fishery, and furnish a proper and reasonable quota for the defence of the nation, in cases of emergency, without having recourse to that ever horrid bone of contention, PRESS-WARRANTS.

The fisheries once properly regulated, would give an immediate check to the baneful practice of emigration. The people would find it more immediately their interest, to continue at home, being sure of an annual employ; and the nation, would fully experience the utility of their aid, in the interspaces of the fishing season, exclusive of their being ready at every emergency to support this country's cause. Of course, the measure is equally beneficial, *to both crown and subject.*

To enter into a discussion of the original political reasons, which gave birth to the sundry trammels with which the fisheries have been clogged, since the time of *Charles* the first, and afterwards in the time of *Charles* the second, through curtesy to our industrious and indefatigable neighbours, the *Dutch*, (*which however has been the undoubted cause of our hitherto insignificance in that branch,*) would prove not only a very voluminous, but an useless undertaking at this juncture.

The

The material point which now calls for general consideration and attention, *is*, properly to distinguish the practicable modes of putting the several fisheries for Salmon, Cod, Ling, Congor, Herrings, Mackerel, Whale, Sunfish, and Seals, upon a respectable, permanent and lucrative footing; by giving such national countenance and protection, and farther granting such privileges and bounties, as shall encourage the good subject and fair trader to become adventurers, which if once done for a few years, so as to bring matters into a regular practice, they will require little other, or farther stimulative for the future continuance, *than the natural profits*, which they will hourly experience.

However flattering the prospect of national success at a future day; like all infant undertakings, the fisheries stand in need of a first fostering, and particular attention; which first fostering and attention, must be proportioned to the future prospect of national advantage, and general good, expected to be derived in consequence of its success.

As this business can be proved most essentially interesting to individuals, and consequential to the nation in general; every matter relative to it, ought at once to be rendered as efficacious and permanent, as the nature of things, and our present insight will permit. By the establishment of such laws, regulations and bounties, as shall not only encourage, but secure to each adventuring individual, the quiet possession and enjoyment of whatever his honest endeavours entitles him to; as well as by a particular care, in the establishment of said laws and regulations, to put it out of the power——

OF DARING COMBINATIONS AT HOME,
 OPEN ENEMIES FROM ABROAD,
 OR EVER JEALOUS NEIGHBOURS,

to circumvent or render abortive, the prosecution of so valuable and lucrative a branch, of free, national business.

Thus a general revival of all the sundry acts, extant relative to fisheries, which contain some hundreds of clauses, provisos, restrictions, exceptions and bounties, &c. which, from their multiplicity only, bewilder the reader. If the whole was properly revised, and the material substance reduced to *one Act*, as much as possible divested of technical or ambiguous terms, so as to be perfectly intelligible to every adventuring individual; with a farther addition of as many encouraging clauses as may be found consistent with reason, prudent, or absolutely necessary, to give such sinews, as will enable and prompt adventurers, to try to surmount the first difficulties of carrying the fisheries into execution. Such a step I am confident, would be productive of innumerable good consequences, as it would give the adventurers a clear understanding of the laws, restrictions, and necessary forms to be observed, and attended to, which might be so calculated, as effectually to prevent innumerable frauds now practised, as well as to discountenance feuds, abuses, contentions and litigations; giving a plain display of the premiums and bounties, which each distinct branch is entitled to, which would prove an effectual stimulative for individuals to risque their fortunes and property in the undertaking.

Acts

Acts thus reduced into one, nothing farther would be wanting to establish the general police of fisheries, but the appointment of three conservators, with properly restricted powers to superintend, hear, and enquire into the state and progress of the fisheries; and with powers to decide and determine petty controversies, subject to appeal to such courts of justice, or superiors, as were vested with powers finally TO DECIDE ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE.

Having revised and collected the heads of the sundry acts and clauses now extant, and having duly weighed them against the necessary exigencies of the matter under consideration; I have endeavoured to form such a general act from the whole, as to answer the distinct purposes, of each distinct fishery under its own title; which I shall humbly submit to the consideration of, or most respectfully offer in aid to such judges as may be found competent, to discuss so weighty and beneficial a matter. After which, I shall humbly endeavour to lay down a general system of police, for the management of the fisheries.

Giving a due attention to the several particularities of this nation, having at the same time an attentive eye to the regulations, established and followed by our prudent friends and neighbours the *Hollanders*, who have left no stone unturned, to bring the business to the utmost perfection. Thus we may hope, in the space of a very few years, to see this nation flourish in branches, particularly their own, *viz.*

LINENS,

LINENS,
PROVISIONS, and
FISHERIES,

Which three branches, if properly followed, are alone sufficient to employ, and very comfortably support every industrious individual in this kingdom. The sole article of fisheries from this kingdom in a very few years, would cause a circulation of cash, to an amount of not less than 1,700,000*l.* or 1,750,000*l.* *ster. per annum*; a very great part of which would be clear gains, subdivided in adequate proportions to the interests of the concerned, from the highest to the lowest.

Another very agreeable consideration is, that neither of the before-mentioned three articles, in any degree, interfere with the staple manufactures of *Great Britain*; of course, they will naturally, and without jealousy, strive to promote each other's interests. I will venture to prove it mutually interesting to *England*, to receive the linens, provisions, fleeces, and fish of this kingdom, as it will be convenient for *Ireland* to receive *their different manufactures in return*.

Thus they will mutually sit down satisfied, with the just distributions of providence, which has given riches and indolence to southern nations, while it has distributed industry and materials to the northern ones, which it has so judiciously subdivided, to particular districts and kingdoms, as to render the general dependence compleat, and a reciprocal correspondence and intercourse, both necessary and political; thus while in this world, we are evidently not born for ourselves but for each other.

D

As

As it is the general harmony, industry, and talents of the people that make empires flourish, it is the indispensable duty of every good subject, in conformity with that general system, to endeavour to contribute his mite.

The hitherto greatest impediments, to the natural progress of the *British* Fisheries, carried on from *Scotland*, has been totally owing to the ill calculated laws, restrictions, and duties laid upon salt, used in curing of herrings, &c. likewise, the ill calculated sizes of craft, nets, &c. &c. all which must be strictly adhered to, (*however inconsistent*) or no bounty can be received. The very liberal aid granted, some years ago, by the *English* parliament, for the establishment and promotion of the herring fishery, by the charter and establishment of the fishing chamber, relative to the fisheries in the western islands, under the management of the commonly called *commodore Walker*; though more than amply sufficient, (by a dissipated mismanagement) answered no other purpose, than amusing the public, with expectancies for a few years, till the account closed itself, without the trouble of transporting a balance.

Let not therefore insignificant salt-duties, be a stumbling-block with us; as we have seen the absurdity in others, let such provision be made at starting, as may prevent any such accident, from blasting the first progress of the *Irish* Fisheries. A few years indulgence, will put the fishery on such a footing, as to admit of paying every reasonable duty that can be laid upon it. But for the present, instead of laying a duty of 1s. per ton, on rock-salt, imported from *England* into *Ireland*, in order to be boiled off, for the purpose and use of the fisheries;

fisheries; it would be much more prudent, not only to remit said duty for a certain number of years, but even to give an encouraging premium, *for the making of every ton of slow boiled salt, in Ireland*; for the difference of fine or coarse salt, depends on nothing more, than the proportion of fire and time, by which the moisture is exhaled, or boiled off from the brine.

Slow-boiled salt, commonly called *Sunday Salt*, on account, that it is allowed to simmer all that day with a slow fire, is twenty-four hours longer boiling off, than salt made in the week or working days. This slow-boiled salt, is much preferable to fine salt, for curing either provisions or fish; it produces every effect, and contains every quality found in bay salt, which is nothing more than the compactness of the matter, which, by this process, is formed in large transparent square grains, and takes a much longer time to dissolve, than fine salt, and of course, furnishes a fresh and successive supply of saline particles, which evidently answers the purpose of preserving fish or flesh, much longer than brine can do, which is made with fine salt, that dissolves immediately.

In *England*, the whole of the salt duties are remitted on cured salt fish. In *Holland*, every man employed in the fisheries, is protected, *unless in cases of the utmost emergency*; every article requisite, in or about the fisheries, is exempted from duty, and every possible encouragement is given, they being perfectly sensible that the fishery is not only their best mine, but at the same time, their best nursery for seamen. It behoves us therefore, to see, that the fishery is put upon an equal footing or level, with every other nation, which we have a probability of meeting at a foreign market, other-

wife we shall be under-fold, the consequence of which will be, *the ruin of the trade.*

The *non-admission* of *Irish* herrings in the *English* ports, I totally attribute to want of attention, or want of explanation ;—for I cannot even perceive a plausible shadow to support the pretext that it would interfere with the *English* salt duties ; as all duties, on salt used in curing of fish, is either remitted or drawn back, in *England*, of course as subjects of the same crown, *DE JURE*, we have a natural right to expect that *Irish* salt herrings should be admitted *with the same propriety as Irish salt beef, pork, or tallow, is allowed.*—I conceive that the matter wants nothing more than to be properly remonstrated, to be granted.

If there is once a proper encouragement given for the making of slow-boiled salt, there is not a doubt but there will, in a very short space, be a sufficient number of salt-works erected in this kingdom to supply the fisheries with the whole quantity of salt requisite—even to the not needing of any foreign salt ;—for, as I have already asserted, slow-boiled salt answers every purpose, and has every quality contained in bay or foreign salt.

By the 8th of queen *Anne*, it is enacted, That after the 24th of *June*, 1709, twelve pence per ton shall be paid for rock-salt, imported into *Ireland*, in lieu of all former duties at landing.

It pays two shillings per ton duty in *Ceshire*, and *Lancashire*, at exportation ; besides bonds given in treble the value of the cargo by substantial securities, that a full certificate shall be returned

ed of said salts being actually landed in *Ireland*.—Said bond stands open against the bondsmen for three years, and for every hundred weight of rock-salt deficient in the certificate, the owner or bondsmen are obliged to make good 6s. 8d. sterling per hundred. They are even so very strict on this head in the *English* customs, that a gentleman who last year imported 500 tons of rock-salt, of which quantity there was only half a hundred weight deficient in the certificate, was obliged to pay the 3s. 4d. duty for said deficiency, before the bond could be discharged.

Salt is measured by the bushel of 8 gallons.—By 2d of queen *Ann*, sec. 2. chap. 14. it is enacted, that 56lb. weight of white-salt, or 65lb. of rock-salt be accounted a bushel; 10 per cent. is allowed for waste on fine or white salt, and 5 per cent. for waste and filth on rock salt. *English* manufactured white salt, as well as all foreign salt, pays 11s. 4½. duty per ton on landing in *Ireland*.

N. B. An *English* act.—By 5 and 6 of *W.* and *M.* chap. 7. sec. 2. it is enacted, that, “for every gallon of salt, not of the manufacture of *England, Wales, or Berwick*, imported into this kingdom, three-pence be paid by the importer, over and above the present duties; or for every gallon of rock-salt made at the salt-works, or taken out of any of the pits within this kingdom 1½ d.”—Farther, in sec. 11. of the above act, it is enacted, “If any person shall export salt, as well foreign as *English*, or rock-salt, the officer, where the salt was made or imported, the duty paid or secured, shall upon demand deliver gratis a certificate that the duty hath been paid

“ paid or secured ;—and the officer of the place
 “ where the salt is exported, upon producing the
 “ certificate, and an oath made of shipping off
 “ the salt, and of its not being reloaded in *Eng-*
 “ *land* or *Wales*, shall give a debenture for repay-
 “ ment of the duty, which being produced to the
 “ officer where the duty shall have been paid or se-
 “ cured ; such security shall be discharged, and all
 “ money paid for the duty of the salt shall be
 “ repaid upon demand, by the officer without
 “ fee.”

The only effectual mode of encouraging the
 curing of fish with salt, is to allow a premium or
 bounty equal to the whole amount of the duties on
 imported salt, which would be 12 s. per ton on all
 salt used on Herrings, Cod, and Ling, &c. &c.
 cured for home consumption, or exportation, ac-
 cording to the quantity sworn to ; or after the rate
 of one bushel per barrel of herrings, that being the
 general quantity used by the *Dutch* to a barrel of
 28 gallons ;—which, as a ton of salt, will cure
 35 barrels of herrings, the premium or bounty to
 serve as a drawback, for salt duty, would not come
 to above 4d. per barrel of Herrings ; Cod, or Ling,
 &c. in proportion :—for unless the salt can be
 purchased reasonably by the salter, his fish must
 come to a bad market, in proportion as the mak-
 ing of his fish up costs him dearer than the *Dutch*,
Eastln d, or *Scotch*.

As to the premiums on Herrings, or fish allowed
 by the DUBLIN SOCIETY, when properly con-
 sidered, they will be found mere shadows, and on-
 ly so much money wasted to no good purpose :—
 for in the first place, the premiums published an-
 nually, are so really insignificant in their amount,
 that

that they will not bear subdividing amongst the sundry adventurers, so as to do them any perceptible good.—And lastly, the uncertainty which adventurers are at, what premium they will receive, even when they have strictly adhered to every condition stipulated by the Society, renders them negligent,—for the men that now receive said premiums, merely receive them occasionally, because they are published; but I will venture to say, that were there no such premiums granted, they would still carry on the same limited traffic, in the article which they have hitherto done; which to the nation, as it now stands, is very insignificant and not worthy a bounty.

To say this merely, is claiming too great a confidence from the public. As no man's *ipse dixit* should be taken in so serious a matter, we conceive it necessary to explain our meaning, and so leave the public to reason on the solidity of the argument.—We would not be understood to wish to impeach the integrity of a Society, where the most respectable names in the kingdom are inrolled as members, by supposing that in the publication of their premiums they do not actually go to the extent of their funds;—and yet, unless it evidently appears that the premiums and the business go actually hand in hand, it can answer no good purpose in the world to give any premiums.

One general national error, renders the good intention of the Society abortive, viz. By an act of parliament, of the 22d *Ed. IV. c. 2. E. S. 7 Geo. II. c. 11.* and by 5 *Geo. III. c. 7.* the export barrel of herrings which is intitled to a bounty of 2s. per barrel, must be of 32 gallons;—whereas the true marketable barrel of herrings for exportation,

exportation, must not be more nor less than 28 gallons for all foreign markets, especially in the plantations, they will not give one single penny more for a barrel of 32 gallons, than for the regular portable barrel of 28. Thus it evidently appears, that if the fisher in *Ireland* attempts to pack his fish with an eye to the bounty, and *Dublin* premium, he must give 4 gallons of herrings to the consumer on every barrel, for nothing more than the premium received at home;—of course the act of parliament stipulation of size of barrel, for many reasons, cannot too soon be amended from the 32 to the 28 gallon barrel.—And next as to what is before hinted, relative to the uncertainty of what premium the fisher would receive, after his fish is actually cured and packed, it stands thus: The Society propose a limited sum of 400 l. as the fund for premiums on Herrings, supposing 1 s. per barrel on cured Herrings as a very generous premium. The argument holds good, as long as the quantity of Herrings cured does not exceed 8000 barrels—Is 8000 barrels of Herrings an object worth a moment's consideration, as a national branch of manufacture? *surely no.*—Suppose 30,000 barrels of Herrings are made, and the premiums claimed by the sundry individuals, from the poor fisherman that could only make 20 barrels, to the great adventurer who, we will suppose, made 10,000 of the above barrels; what then will be the rateable proportion to the poor fisherman on his 20 barrels, when the 400 l. comes to be divided into 30,000 parts? In that case the proportional premium does not amount to more than $3\frac{1}{4}$ d. per barrel, instead of the supposed 1 s. per barrel,—of course the poor fisherman at *Donegal*, would only have 5s. 10d. to receive on his 20 barrels, after sending certificate, paying postage, &c. to the Society,

Society, and being on the watch to see when said premium would be paid; besides how unnatural is it to suppose, that such men can come to receive such a trifle? and, on the other hand, how difficult is it not for such men to find an agent that would perform such a commission? Had the DUBLIN SOCIETY a fund to pay 1s. per barrel on each barrel of Herrings, it would be a very noble premium—but till they have, what they now give answers no better purpose than throwing a pale of water into the Liffey, at the pinch of a neap-tide, in order to float the colliers up over the bar. If 400 l. annually must be given, let it be applied to the encouragement of public salt-works, smoaking-houses for red-herrings, or boiling houses for blubber of whales, &c. so that each adventuring individual, whose finances will not permit him to do more than catch and cure his fish, may experience some little benefit on the spot where his business actually *lay*, without being obliged to come to town in expectation of a reality of 1s. per barrel, and in its stead probably receive only a single penny per barrel.

If I do not misconstrue the meaning of the Act which decrees the duties of all foreign imported Herrings to be paid to the DUBLIN SOCIETY, it positively declares that the same shall be by them solely applied to the encouragement of the north west fisheries on the coasts of *Ireland*. I cannot conceive that the original intention of decreeing such sum for such purpose, was ever intended to be carried into practice by the mode it now is—which is, that all foreign Herrings pay on importation 1s. per barrel duty. If exported within nine months, the whole of said duty is re-drawn by the original importer, or the actual exporter—and

E then

then the only sum payable to the DUBLIN SOCIETY, is the difference between the duty received on foreign imported Herrings, and the drawback paid upon their exportation.—Whereas I conceive, that were even every farthing of the import duties paid into the hands of the Society for the purpose of establishing premiums, it would be nothing in comparison of the object which is so very deserving of encouragement.

If the situation of our affairs at the *Dutch* and *Swedish* courts, requires so essential a compliment from our side, as that we should encourage their fisheries and exempt their fish from duties, by refunding what they pay us; let government decree that all fish-drawbacks shall be paid out of the proceeds of some of the other branches of the revenue: if they do not, to what does the surplus money paid into the hands of the DUBLIN SOCIETY actually amount? *In reality*, to nothing more than this sole paradoxically baneful purpose—the DUBLIN SOCIETY receives 1s. duty on every barrel of foreign Herring imported, which is not actually exported, and the nation loses 27s. for every barrel of such foreign Herrings, which by not being exported, is consumed in *Ireland*.

If common sense can reconcile such an absurdity, I am an utter stranger to what can be deemed good or national policy.

I must here observe, that we have likewise, what I shall call a nominal 2s. per barrel bounty on exported *Irish* Herrings—but this nominal bounty amounts to nothing more than this, That 2s. per barrel is actually received by the exporter; but then before he can export, he must pay 8-pence per
per

per barrel duty, and all the other fees actually amount to $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. more; of course the exporter remains only with $11\frac{1}{4}$ d. clear. Why then call it 2s.? In the name of wonder, why not give it its real name? a bounty of $11\frac{1}{4}$ d. receivable after much trouble, and so, candidly at once undeceive the adventurer and legislature, who, no doubt, think 2s. a valuable consideration—the thought is aerial! Grant the adventurer a clear bounty of 2s. $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per barrel, for 12 years, and I dare venture to insure the crown a revenue of 2s. $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per barrel ever after. For my own part, in order to remedy this real oversight, I do not hesitate at saying, I wish, (as I am confident it will be found absolutely necessary, if ever the *Irish* Fishery is essentially encouraged,) *that the now import duty on foreign herrings, ought not only to be doubled, but every drawback totally cancelled*; for it is raising a fund at too dear a rate, to permit the nation to pay 27s. for every shilling the DUBLIN SOCIETY has to appropriate, towards the encouragement of fisheries. This now proposed measure, I make no doubt, will be strenuously opposed upon two principles; the one, foreign, and the other, domestic, and still I am bold to say, that the argument may be done away with solid propriety.

As this matter is merely stated for the discussion of abler heads, it is wished, that malevolence may have no opportunity to cavil upon trifles; as such, it must be observed, that where general matter is mentioned, there is no intention of impeaching individuals, or where sums are mentioned, they must be understood to mean a little more or less.

It is expediency that is argued for, and that expediency is not to be exemplified, but by a degree of calculation. But should the subject at any time

require it, we shall not refuse entering into the most minute discussion by calculation, and weighing every atom statically, and hydrostatically.

Let us now suppose the matter taken up, upon the line of foreign inexpediency; it is very easily answered by the recital of the following fact. We have in our day seen objects of much greater consequence, carried into execution, than any thing that could befall the *Eastlanders* or *Dutch*, by either *increasing the duties of fish, sent to us by them, or annulling the drawback; or even totally prohibiting their entry.*

Sumptuary laws are past in every state, where disorders run high. A sumptuary law with only six months notice, was passed in *Portugal*, in the latter part of the reign of king *John* the V. in 1748, prohibiting, to all intents and purposes, the use of gold, silver, tinsel, lace, or embroidery with gold, or silver. The consumpt in *Portugal*, and for the *Brazils*, was astonishing, and wholly supplied from *France*. The law took place, and no bad consequences accrued. The same law, prohibited the importation of all flowered silk whatsoever, or wheresoever manufactured, which proved a most material stroke, upon the *English Spittlefield* weavers; yet the law took place, and exists at this day, and no bad consequences accrued, even to that defenceless state, *Portugal*. Why then should we hesitate at following either, or both the expedients, of encreasing the duties on importation, and taking off the drawbacks, or of even totally prohibiting foreign fish, after giving six months notice,

The *French* at the time the lace prohibition took place, actually did to the amount of 500,000*l.*
ster.

ster. *per ann.* in that article only; whereas, in 1766, the whole import of foreign herrings into this Kingdom, was 61,283 barrels, which supposing them at 27s. *per barrel*, does not exceed 82,732l. gross amount; on which, suppose the profit at 33 *per cent.* it does not amount to more than 27,644l. The *French* profit on lace, was not less than 33 *per cent.* in *Portugal*, which upon 500,000l. amounted to 166,666l. If they sit down tamely with such a loss, what room is there to doubt that the *Eastlanders* and *Dutch* should do the same, with a so much inferior sum, without presuming to impeach, or even question so salutary a measure as the passing so evidently political a law for the good of this country.

There has been a constant abuse, even in respect to the drawbacks on foreign herrings; they pay duty by the barrel at import, and receive drawback by the barrel at export. No attention has been paid that the imported barrel is repacked, and which when looked into, will prove that 20 import barrels repack to 25; of course, 20 *per cent.* more drawback is paid than ought, which is productive of a still greater abuse on the nation, for it cloaks the consumpt of one 5th more of foreign herrings, than we have ever suspected, and the original destination of the surplus to the DUBLIN SOCIETY, has been annually insensibly robbed of the difference.

I shall say nothing on the subject of our national loss, by the before recited sumptuary law, except that it was undoubtedly more than the whole gross amount of *Eastland* imported first; and yet we, the natural allies of the crown of *Portugal*, nay, their principal protectors, since the revolution of
Braganza;

Braganza; we, I say, could find no plausible expedient to prevent its being carried into execution. Thus I hope, every argument on the head of foreign inexpediency, is effectually done away.

I may probably find it more difficult, to stem the torrent of interested individuals at home; and yet I dare say, that if they have but one single atom of patriotic virtue in them, they must finally join issue in carrying this matter into effect.

The arguments formerly used in favour of the city of *Cork*, and its inhabitants, in the coopering and commission business, however solid in their behalf, as individuals, or as a local prejudice, ought not to be allowed to militate, in opposition to the interest of the nation at large.

The good consequences of a well regulated fishery in *Ireland* is of too much moment to be sacrificed to any partial interest that can, or ought to exist. But I will even venture to prove, that the inconveniency can only be temporary, nay, the greatest part imaginary, for the following reasons, *viz.* *Cork* will at all times continue to be, the natural port of export for herrings to our Colonies; foreign herrings imported are never exported but as a trivial part, or proportion of plantation assorted cargoes, which it is not worth the while of the exporting planter to send for, either to *Holland* or *Gottenburgh*.

This being a matter perfectly understood by the *Eastlanders*, they found out the expedient of consigning their fish to *Cork* for sale. No herring is ever finally exported, without being repacked and coopered; of course the whole of the herrings exported

ported from *Cork*, must be recoopered there; if so, I cannot perceive the difference to the cooper, whether he receives his wages for coopering of *Eastland*, or home-made fish; whereas, the propriety of consigning herrings to *Cork* for sale, will be as evidently prudent for the *Donegal*, and *Lough-Swilly* fisher, as for the *Hollander* or *Swede*; of course, the merchant will receive his commission as usual, whether from *Peter* at *Gottenburgh*, or *Paul* at *Donegal*, in my opinion is immaterial.

As to the matter of manufacturing of casks, it is not to be doubted, but that the herring curer will resort to the best market for them; if *Cork* is such, as soon as the general intercourse is established by regular conveyance, between *Cork* and *Donegal*, the vessel that goes for herrings, may carry casks there, or the vessel that brings herrings to the *Cork* market, may take casks back. If *Cork* is not really the best market for casks, why should they expect to have a preference, in opposition to the general interest of the nation?

I am confident, that no fisher would be so blind to his own interest, as to refuse taking casks in barter for herrings, as long as the casks do not come dearer to him than he could manufacture them; nor would any cooper be so blind to his own interest, as to refuse following his mart for a commodity, which he is sure the fisherman cannot do without; and for which there will be at least tenfold the demand he ever knew, if the fisheries get once properly established.

The difference may be material to some few overgrown individuals, who out of former coopering profits, have seated themselves so very elegantly, and commodiously, as to render it disagreeable

ble to change their situation : but to all such, I must only administer the same comfort, as was given in *Flanders* to the merchants of *Antwerp*, when business left its old track, and seated itself in *Amsterdam*—Let them follow it.

It is evident, that there will be a greater demand for barrels, than was ever known before ; so I conceive it the natural interest of the cooper, to follow the fisher, or at least, to suit himself in a great degree to his conveniency, by a moderate price.

Should there still remain any solid reason, why the amendments proposed should not take place, on account of its materially interfering with the immediate interest of any set of individuals, in such a manner, as to merit legislative attention—Legislature may easily make such temporary provision for the injured individuals, as will effectually alleviate their loss; for the doing of which, we humbly beg leave to point out a modus.

As it cannot be alleged, that the real damage can exceed a certain proportion of the whole sum, annually circulated, for casks and cooperage in *Cork*, which I have never heard estimated at upwards of 5000*l. per annum* ; that being the case, what proportion thereof can be reasonably supposed to be the usual profit? for brevity, we will suppose 25 *per cent.* what will the total loss of the branch be, to the inhabitants of *Cork*? I answer, it will be, 1250*l.*; for it is evident to every individual, that, let who will be the importer of herrings, the export will be from *Cork*, consequently, a great part of the coopering business, will still be carried on there; if so, it will probably reduce the total loss, to only the one half of 1250*l.* Let then, such sum be set apart, or paid to individuals,

duals, in proportion to their sufferings, as long as they live; though I fear, it would be establishing a every bad national president; for, on the same line of equity, every man in business, who once possesses a lucrative branch of trade, which, by any fortuitous event, was to fall into a decline, he might apply to the legislature, to make good his usual profits, as the articles he dealt in, were gone out of fashion.

I should be extremely sorry to bring any past matters in question, but least the *Cork* advocates should be too strenuous in their assertions of right, I must beg leave to refer them to a serious perusal, of the act of Navigation; I could point out two other acts, which would immediately decide the contest, though I think for the present, they are prudently omitted.

MACHIAVEL is perfectly right, in his inviolable system, "Never to allow any private interest to militate, in opposition to a public national good."

If the argument from *Cork*, is allowed to hold good, *Dublin* has great reason to lament, that by its situation, it is proscribed from having any share in so very material an export branch.

It would seem as if the ideas of people, whose sphere it is, to think of, digest, and follow business, had been for years, totally absorbed in indolence, debauchery, and dissipation, without attending in the smallest degree, to that *laudable, industry and frugality*, whereby our neighbours have so astonishingly enriched themselves as individuals, and of course, the state in general.

It is scarcely possible to say more, than I have already done, by way of stimulation, without traversing the very ground, which I have already gone over; and yet, a short comparison of the material objects, may tend to render the matter clearly intelligible.

To recapitulate the treasure, which the *Dutch* and *Eastlanders* derive from our seas, would be useless. They fit out at a great expence, come a long voyage, stand the sea in all weathers, and are limited to the narrow compass of their ships decks, to cure their fish.

We can fit out at a very easy expence, can land our fish every day, nay hour, comparatively speaking, and have unlimited tracks of land, for the conveniency of doing the business effectually in all its branches; can have our stock of Salt on shore, and under no necessity of either coming a long voyage, or standing the sea in bad weather, and still, with all these advantages, the very indefatigable industry of the *Dutch*, surmounts all these expences and difficulties, and they under-sell us every where, which is succinctly owing to want of œconomy, attention, and a proper degree of legislative encouragement.

Without establishing a staple, in some commodious situation, as nearly as possible approximate to the fisheries, it will be absurd to imagine, that they should ever flourish. Repeated attempts to fix the fish staple in *London*, and the *Buss-Dock* at the *Isle of Doggs*, has been one of the chief obstacles which has positively marred all late attempts, for the

the establishment of fisheries in *England*. A staple must not be attempted, but where there is a good harbour for shipping near the fishery, and good conveniency, for both building and laying up craft in safety.

The 31st. of *Ed. 3*. Ch. 2d. established the staple for herrings at *Yarmouth*, and fixed 6 score of herrings to be a hundred, and the last to be 10,000; and it likewise adjusted the prices of sale.

The 31st. of *Ed. 3*. Ch. 3. enacted that no herrings should be sold but between Sun-rise and Sun-set, nor no herrings caught, or nets shot, but between Sun-set and Sun-rise. By said act, all private sales were prohibited: it was likewise enacted, that no second chapman should interfere, while the first was in treaty, or before he had quitted his bargain.

The standard measure for sale of fresh herrings, must be limited to 36 gallons, and 18 gallons, and the bounty barrel for exportation, stipulated at 28 gallons.

Searchers and guagers must be appointed, who shall dare do their duty strictly, by measuring and marking the casks, according to the quality of the fish contained, and in no other manner. Herrings must be assorted into three qualities, and the casks marked accordingly, as, first, second, and third quality. It is by such marks, that the prices of the *Dutch* herrings are regulated at all the markets which the *Dutch* frequent; the third quality bears the lowest price.

By the 11th. of *Hen. VII.* Ch. 23. Guagers and Searchers fees, were settled and regulated, which regulations, on account of the difference of times, ought now to be regulated *de novo*.

According to the 5th. of *Eliz. C. 4.* Herrings, or *British* caught fish, exported in *British* Ships, was exempted from all duties.

By the 13th. of *Eliz. C. 11.* Ships driving so, as to damage nets, were made subject to very severe penalties. And no fish to be cured, or landed, or sold, but what was caught by, *bona fide*, *British* subjects.

Queen *Mary* first began to curb the insolence of the Merchants of the *Hanse-Towns*, who till then engrossed the whole traffic of *London*, and Queen *Elizabeth* put the finishing hand, to so laudable a work, by totally extirpating them; and from that period *English* merchants began to flourish.

The *Hanse-Towns* at that time, and even now, have very large and valuable possessions on the Banks of the *Thames*, above *London-Bridge*, and to this day possess the whole *Steel-Yard*, where an agent is established, in an elegant house, to superintend their business, and receive their rents.

Sir *Walter Raleigh* did all in his power, to set forth the consequence of a well regulated fishery; but King *James* the first paid no regard to his remonstrances.

Henry the seventh, on the other hand, even courted his sea-ports to set up fisheries. He not only

only offered them extensive privileges, but loans of money; and yet nothing could rouse them, from their lethargic indolence.

There are in *Ireland*, many commodious spots, for the establishment of fishing Towns, which I am amazed, that the proprietors neglect doing; for if done, I am very sure they would soon find their account. If the fisheries receive proper encouragement, I am confident that such commodious Towns would flourish to admiration, in less than 7 years. They would enrich both proprietors and ground landlords, and, by their convenience, most effectually enrich the nation.

Expedition is the life of the fishing business, and is one of the most effectual means of establishing the sterling reputation of the commodity; for fish cannot be too soon cured after caught, if done with a proper degree of cleanliness, as such convenient ports are requisite.

To say any thing of the good consequences of a nursery for seamen to this nation, would only afford a suspicion of an intention, to swell the subject. It suffices to say, that by promoting this measure, we may have one as extensive, when, and wheresoever we please.

The *Dutch* Last, is estimated equivalent to 2 tons, and a Last of cured Herring, averaged at 20l. the Last. Their markets are to the following places, and the respective amounts, (with very little annual variation,) as here annexed.

To

To <i>Quinsborough, Elbingstatten, and Danzick</i> ; between thirty and forty thousand last, at 16 <i>l.</i> per last,	£. 620,000
To <i>Denmark, Norway, and other parts</i> within the <i>Sound</i> , ten thousand last, at from 20, to 36 <i>l.</i> — —	170,000
To <i>Russia, and Arch-Angel, the Dutch</i> send near 1500 last, and we send only 20 or 30 last, at 18 <i>l.</i> —	27,000
To <i>Staad, Hamburgh, Bremen, Empden,</i> upon the <i>Elbe, Weaser, and Embs,</i> about 6000 last, at 16 <i>l.</i> — —	100,000
To <i>Cleaveland, Gulickland, up the River Rhine, and Maine, to Cologne, Franckfort, &c.</i> in Herring, and other fish, 20000 last, at 20 <i>l.</i> —	400,000
Up the <i>Maine, to Leigh, Maestricht, Deadlaw, Zuiphen, Deventer, Camden, Swoole, and all Luke-land,</i> 7000 last, at 20 <i>l.</i> — —	140,000
To <i>Guilderland, Artris, Hainault, Brabant, Flanders, and to Antwerp, and all through the Arch-Duke's dominions,</i> between 8 and 9000 last, at 18 <i>l.</i>	162,000
To <i>Roan, and other parts of France,</i> 50,000 last, at 20 <i>l.</i> — —	1,000,000

£. 2,619,000

We

We must observe, that no part of our home consumption, *Streights, Plantation, or Island* marts are included in this estimate, which will encrease the general amount vastly.

Lieven Van Aitzam, who wrote in 1653, sets forth, that 300,000 lasts of Herrings have been taken by the *Dutch* in one year.—This even far surpasses the annexed calculation.

The fund in *Holland*, to establish this vast business, did not exceed 450,000*l*.

In *James I.*'s time, *Mr. Seldon* wrote in support of the exclusive right to the fishery, by *British* subjects, in our seas.

Hugo Grotius argued for the general freedom of All Coasts in two essays, the first intituled *Mare Clausum*, and his second, *Mare Liberum*.—And yet, we did nothing material in fisheries, till after the restoration. When doctor *Benjamin Worsley*, secretary to the council of trade, took up the subject, *De Novo*. After expending much time, and money, in *Holland*, in order to investigate the matter compleatly, he estimated the annual amount of the Herring fishery at — *£*. 3000,000

Sir *Walter Raleigh* estimated it at }
only — — — — — } 2,500,000

And even the pensioner *De Witt*, }
acknowledged it to be upwards of — } 3,000,000

There are many, many solid reasons, for the immediate establishment of a staple for fish, which must be equally commodious for the general fishing

ing business, and the sale of the fish. First, to save expence, time, and risque; and principally, to prevent the *Dutch* from constantly taking the lead at the *Eastland* markets—it is an essential advantage they will ever strive for; that once gained, they will pay little regard to all inferior markets.—And lastly, at the staple, such laws might be established, as to answer every common purpose, and to punish in a summary manner, every common misdemeanour, or transgression, against the fishing regulations. For want of such police, and punishments, all hitherto attempts for the success of the fisheries, have proved abortive.

All *Dutch* busses have arms and amunition on board, and a number of pikes, and half-pikes—and I very justly apprehend, that those *Minbeers*, will not easily digest the thoughts of being out-rivalled in so old and so essential a branch of business; as such, to prevent disagreeable contentions, it would be well to have our fishers protected in the proper seasons by a frigate or two—accidents being much easier prevented, than remedied.

The *Dutch* fishing fund is very large—whenever we set up in competition, we must see how to balance stock with them, that we may not be bore down by their weight of metal. We must be prepared against all machinations and subtilties from that quarter; for they will not mind a few years loss, to overset, or give us a *quietus* once more.—We must prepare for the worst, so as to stand any shock they can give.—We must be vigorous in our measures, we must be steady and well-advised in our resolutions; we must be frugal without parsimony in the first outset; and we must be both vigilant and attentive, to the management, government,
and

and protection, of so weighty a national interest.

These political maxims once properly set on foot, would at a future day afford *Loaves and Fishes* for all reasonable expectants ; and probably, save many of our present cavils in the senate, upon matters of mere moon-shine, when compared with the refulgent good consequences, of a well regulated, and successful fishery.

Should the prosecution of this great business be considered with a jealous eye, by our sister kingdoms ; there may be a general association of the three kingdoms ;—in this branch, there is room enough for all to live.

I wish to see so great a national object carried into effect, without a jobb.

Let foreigners accustomed to the business, be encouraged to settle on our coasts ; a *Dutchman* cannot live without dabbling ; a few of them may be convenient, and yet I would not place an over-confidence in them.

Let fishermen be protected during the season from every thing but capital crimes, or transgressions against the fishing laws.

Let salt, flaves, yarn for nets, timber for building craft, &c. &c. be all *exempt from duties for a certain time.*

Let there be a strict revisal and a translation made of all the *Dutch* and *Swedish* political laws and regulations, for the promotion of their fisheries

as much adopted, as the nature of our constitution will permit. By such a step, we shall plainly perceive every advantage, and be able to prevent and provide for all casualties in the establishment of the fishing police.

I will chearfully undertake the collecting, translating from the originals, and selecting all such matter as to me shall seem material and pertinent to the business. For which purpose I have already ordered all foreign laws, and regulations, relative to the business, to be purchased,—that I may not be misled by the translations of men who were totally ignorant of the matter they translated;—the misconception of one single technical term, might be productive of fatal consequences. Such work when finished, to be submitted to the consideration of Parliament at large;—for no inferior intervention can ever bring this matter to a bearing.

The prudence of such a measure was so evident in *Charles II.*'s time, that his majesty actually appointed his royal highness the duke of *York*, *Edward* earl of *Clarendon*, and others, to be at the head of a council of the Royal Fisheries of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, and that the King himself would vouchsafe to be called the Protector. *This Council* was impowered to make laws, constitute offices, and officers, for the service.—To fix penalties, fines, and punishments.—To exempt all people, and things necessary from duty.—To protect every industrious individual concerned in the fishery.—To free fishermen, and craft, from arrest for debt, during the fishing season.—And to exempt fishers from the serving of compulsive offices.—They were even empowered to establish a lottery, for three years, to raise a fund for the fishery.—What better could we do, than to prohibit all other
lotteries

lotteries for a certain time, and solely to permit a Fishing Lottery; the profits of which to go to the general fishing fund?

They were farther impowered to exempt the fisheries from all import duties, for a certain number of years; and for the encouragement of the consumption of the commodity, it was enacted, That all victuallers should be obliged to consume one or more barrells of Herrings in proportion to their situation.

Even after all these circumstances and regulations, the matter dwindled to nothing. For the *Dutch*, politically managed in 1668, to enter into a treaty with the king; wherein a tacit permission was given to the *Dutch* to fish on our coasts.

In 1672, we declared war against them, and in 1674, peace was proclaimed; the *Dutch* being bound to pay the king 800,000 pataccoons, or pialters; and thence forward, the interests of both nations was intimately cemented, to support themselves against the *French*.

The *Dutch* by dint of interest in the *English* parliament, found means to defeat the first establishment. Nevertheless, the 2^d of September, 1676, a patent passed to the duke of York, and earl of Danby, and others, constituting them one body politic, under the title of *The Company of the Royal Fishery of England*, with power to have a common seal, to assemble and make laws, to erect store-houses, and to purchase lands to the value of 1000 l. a year.

After sundry meetings to regulate matters, the *Dutch* influence, or *cash*, prevailed so far, a second time, as to make the original patentees withdraw; and soon after, the subject vanished like smoke.

Sir *John Burroughs* has taken a very tolerable view of this business, but still he comes to no wished for conclusion.

I wish to see the matter stated and settled, for the present time: and a proper estimate made out for our day, and suited to the value of money, in our time.

To depend upon pristine calculations, may lead us into errors. We must take our precedents, and form our resolutions, according to the present complexion of things. As such, there is no medium; we must either go spiritedly into the matter, or allow the subject once more to sink in oblivion. We have undoubtedly markets of our own, where the *Dutch* cannot come in competition with us. Let us be satisfied with supplying them, and ourselves at home, till such time as we are arrived at a standard state of perfection in the business; and so far established, as to stand a fair contest at foreign markets, by offering goods of equal quality, for an equal price; which we may do, by our having many sums in our favour, from savings in freights, insurance, and charges, which the *Dutch* must submit to, on account of their distance from the fisheries.

It does not require above a couple of seasons, to render any man an expert fisher. As such, if we do not arrive at a state or degree of perfection in the
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the matter, no other excuse can be urged, but indolence unpardonable.

As bounties, premiums and drawbacks, are absolutely necessary for the general promotion of the fisheries in the first instance; I could wish to see some eligible mode suggested to accelerate the payment of them; and yet, we must be very cautious of making more haste than good speed, by bringing on a chain of insurmountable difficulties: By establishing such regulations, as may deter, even the best disposed people from complying with the necessary requisites. To exemplify which, I must suppose a cargo shipped for a foreign market, that is intitled to bounty or drawback. To ascertain the exportation, a bond is usually given that the article shall not be relanded;—but to secure the nation from abuse by relanding, no bounty should be receivable but upon return of the export certificate of landing; that is the only period when such premiums ought to be made peremptorily payable, and not till then.

To stipulate the payment at even three months after entry for exportation, may be attended with bad consequences; for there are few of our Mediterranean, Streights, or Eastland ports, from whence the certificate could not be returned in less than three months.

Should the bounties be paid before the certificates are returned, the bondsmen, I apprehend will lie open to such neglects, as will very frequently bring them into very disagreeable predicaments.—Of course, when once they seriously reflect on the risque they run by being bound, they will in future

ture very prudently decline standing bondsmen a second time.

As the bond is a very prudent mode of securing the performance of the conditions;—so, on the other hand, it is prudent to render the bondsman as little as possible, liable to accident, by not multiplying his risque in any degree farther than absolutely requisite.

Should the bounties be made payable before the certificates are returned, there will be a great opening for relanding, as well as great risque to the bondsman; that the exporter who either from multiplicity of business, or want of method in doing business, or from meer negligence, might omit the return of the certificate, so as to discharge the bondsman; which might subject him or his family after him to Extents from the crown, or a thousand other disagreeable matters.

I know no remedy for the general safety, but to take bond as usual, and to make the bounty payable peremptorily on return of the certificate. Exporters while the bounty is receivable will take trouble, but when once received will frequently neglect every other requisite. In order to prevent the now constant abuses in the receipt of tonage, bounties on craft by false bills of sale, &c. I propose that every fishing vessel of whatever denomination, belonging to any of the fisheries, shall be so marked and numbered, and such marks and numbers so made public, as to put it out of the power of the best masked villany to impose upon the institution. Such a system and regulations I have now suggested, as will effectually prevent in future any such frauds being perpetrated; unless
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the perpetrator should be satisfied, to purchase Gold at ten pound the ounce; while the standard price of Bullion, was at four pound the ounce.

It has long been frivolously urged, that land cured Herrings were not equally good, as those cured at sea, by the *Dutch*. I compare the assertion to the fable of the Fox and Grapes; for they certainly, have never produced any land cured fish, for want of a possibility of trying the experiment. I will venture to say, that the sole difference is owing to the quantity and quality of salt, and the little pains and cleanliness, in giping * them.

The *Dutch* gipe them as soon as caught. A *Dutch* Bus, has from thirty to forty hands, who are very careful and cleanly, in their performance of this part of the business, which we almost totally neglect; though it is one of the essentials, towards the making of good Herrings.

Good Package, is the next matter most minutely attended to, by our rivals the *Dutch*. There every packer is first examined, as to ability, and after that, sworn never to pack any but sound Herring, or Herring that has never heated. This sole precaution, has supported the sterling repute, of the goodness of the *Dutch* Herrings, which will ever have the preference at a foreign market, at even an advanced price, till such time as the reputation of the *Irish* Herrings, is equally established.

As to Markets, we have the certainty of our home, and plantation consumption, and an equal chance at foreign markets, if we will but be equal-

* A technical term, for gutting and taking out the gills.

ly careful, vigilant, prudent, and alert ; nor can I in *any wise* discover a reason, why the *Dutch* should get the start of us, when in every other maritime sphere, we so far out-do them, as expeditious navigators.

In the time of *Charles* the second, this trade was one of the greatest objects of speculation. The advantages appeared in so striking a light, that when the King applied to parliament for supplies, which they refused to grant ; he was advised, immediately to commence fisherman, by establishing a fishery for his own account. Sir *Roger Le Strange* was fixed upon to investigate the matter ; who very evidently made it appear, that that single article, was capable of furnishing millions annually, to the public purse ; of course it must bear a proportional parity with every adventuring individual at this day ; for it is not a subject that has undergone any material fluctuation, more than other indispensable necessities of life have done in our time.

The King naturally indolent, and little obliged to his parliament, for their inattention to his requests, was equally indifferent towards the good of the nation, and never looked farther, than how to compass his immediate supplies.

Sir *Roger Le Strange*, proposed to raise a fund for the fishery, by loan, contribution, or tax. *Hitchcock* proposed 80,000*l.* to be raised by 40 persons, out of each County, at 50*l.* each : Or such a thing as the appropriation of the *Algier* duty, for the redemption of slaves, or the old coal tax, for the rebuilding of churches, as equal to answer the purpose.

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My idea, is neither to ask or propose, any such establishment; but solely to encourage as many individuals as might be induced to give it a tryal, from seeing all obstacles effectually removed, and matters made easy; by as well an established police, as the nature of the business will permit.

A suspension of trivial duties for a few years, or even the appropriation of certain sums for a certain number of years, I conceive would be a most easy mode of establishing a permanent branch of national revenue; which I am very confident would bear being levied, at farthest twelve years after the establishment; from the fisheries of this kingdom.

During the war between *Holland* and *Spain*, the privateers from *Dunkirk* made great havock amongst the *Dutch* fishing busses; which induced the fishermen to tax themselves in a dollar of 30 stuivers, equal to our 3s. for every cast of Herrings—in order to defray the expence of certain ships of war to protect their craft. By the register it appeared, that the fishery had taken that year 300,000 casts of Herrings, which valued at 12 l. the cast, amounted to 3,600,000 l. whereas export Herrings are generally sold from 20 l. to 30 l. the cast. If so, the then annual produce was nine millions; of course the amount of the 10th penny, is near one million sterling.

The *Dutch* fisheries now pay a tenth penny on all fish caught, which the fisher chearfully gives; and still in a few years makes an opulent fortune. Such an aid to our finances would soon admit of taking off the greater part of our present burthensome taxes, which chiefly prove oppressive to

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the poorer part of the people; as the luxuries of life are not equally taxed with the necessaries.

Thus far we have solely attempted to delineate the advantages to be derived from a well regulated Herring-fishery. We hope that we have succeeded in some small degree; but the subject must not drop here. There is now a prudent opportunity of throwing a few more grains in the stimulating scale of interest, by some slight hints relative to the *Newfoundland* fisheries.

After what we have already said, in order to stimulate all parties, both legislative and mercantile, we hope to be excused from *Minutias*, which on this occasion would only tend to swell the subject to such a bulk, as would probably cause it to be thrown aside, by people who are not overfond of reading, without even granting it a cursory perusal.

My work, on this subject, I conclude as more than half done,—as both *England* and *Ireland* have been long perfectly convinced of the advantages annually derived to the nation at large from the foggy banks of *Newfoundland*.

My present wish is only to bring the matter as much as possible still nearer home; or at least, to shew what advantages may probably be derived by attending to the Cod and Ling fisheries on this coast.

The *Newfoundland* trade gives constant annual employ to upwards of 25,000 *British* subjects, and 600 vessels great and small. The amount of the trade is estimated to exceed 800,000 l. annually;
of

of which I propose stating farther particulars in due time, as well for the government of the *Newfoundland Banker*, as for the information of *our coast fishers*. Who in course of time may derive very essential advantages, by adventuring in that branch nearer home: we need no greater proof of there being great quantities of Cod, Ling, &c. on this coast, than the daily reports of the little fishermen who supply our market. I have already shewn, that so far back as in 1663, there is a record that 500 ton of fish have been taken in one day on this coast.

Daily experience confirms, that fish which resort to any particular spot unmolested for a number of years, increase at an amazing rate. That there are numbers of banks on this coast constantly frequented by white fish, equal in every respect, nay, generally larger than those taken at *Newfoundland*, is what we have many accounts of.

It is to be lamented, that our north-west coast, and the environs of the *Scotch* coast, are so little explored. It is a shame to the nation at large, that we who are such general navigators, should know so little of our *Northern coasts*, as hardly to render them navigable with safety; which we will find verified by only looking back to the difficulties which our frigates of war met with for want of proper pilots in 1745, and even the *Albion*, and the *Burford* in 1777.

Monson's and *Salmon's* are the only tolerable accounts we have on that subject. Some banks are known, and resorted to by a few mercenary individuals, who do not wish the track may be made public. *Monson* describes sundry banks, which he suppose

supposes to be a continued chain from the Great Banks at *Newfoundland*, to the Environs of the *Island of Rbona*, within six leagues of the *Scotch* coast; and from thence continued by *Harris*, *Lewis* and *Skey*, directing its course along the *Irish* coast to *Tilly-Head*. I have seen an old map, where what is now called *Bantry Bay*, was called by the Milesians, *Ansiada de pescada*, which literally translated is, *Hake's Bay*. The quantity of fish taken off *Tilly-Head* near *Cork*, and by the *Manks* fishermen upon this coast, put every doubt of quantity out of question.

Thirty leagues west of *St. Kilda*, which is an island in the western ocean, on the *Scotch* coast, is where most of the private self-interested fishers from *Scotland* have resorted for years; as well as to another island called *Rockel*, which is not laid down in any map.

In 1766, there was an attempt made to establish a company in *Glasgow*, for the purpose of pursuing that trade;—but at that time every individual who could raise or command a hundred pounds, immediately invested it in the *Virginia trade*; of course, that attempt proved fruitless.

From *Barrow-Head* in the *Higblands* of *Scotland*, to the North Point of the *Island of Lewis*, is now the most frequented spot for fishing; but little is done except to supply the neighbouring country,—exclusive of three or four cargoes which are made annually by private adventurers, formerly masters of *Newfoundland* fishers. In that district, vast quantities of large fish are taken, which affords from two or six barrels of oil each, and is called in the *Erse* language, *Kerban*.—

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I conclude it to be the same fish as is called the *Sun-fish* on this coast.

If premiums either honorary or lucrative were given for the bearings and soundings in those districts; or at least proper clauses inserted in the conditions of qualification for the receipt of bounties, *that every master of a vessel employed in the fisheries claiming bounties, shall be obliged to produce his extended diurnal observations relative to this matter, during the whole of his fishing season.* By this method it is probable we should in a few years fully explore the whole of our coasts, so as to ascertain the extent, situation, and quality of fish which frequent each distinct bank.

It is a general observation with the fishers on that coast, that *April* and *May* are the seasons when *white-fish* are to be caught on the small banks *near shore*. After that period, they take to the deep, and go to the remoter banks, which lie farther at sea: of course, I should conceive it prudent to extend the 35 leagues distance for bounties to a greater latitude than is now stipulated; for it is very evident, that few adventurers will prefer fishing at a distance, while they can obtain their cargoes with ease near home; and the great national point is, *that the subject should have an annual quantity of fish to sell*; which we may be sure will always give them a sum of money equivalent; of course, *the first great end will be answered.*

This branch of trade requires no less regulation and attention than the Herring-fishery. The privileges granted to *Ireland* with respect to the *Newfoundland* fisheries, are not sufficiently considered. There are still some distinctions between the *Eng-
lish*

lish and *Irish* fishers on that coast, that must be done away. There are still sundry disagreeable trammels, with which the *Irish* adventurers find themselves embarrassed, *which is it now the proper time to remove once for all.* I shall state them in their proper place. I propose likewise, to give a particular list of all the places or banks hitherto discovered, suspected to have fish; that the curiosity of individuals may be roused to make observations on the coast and adjacent seas, whenever opportunity offers. *Government and revenue cruisers might be instructed to attend to this matter particularly,* as often as opportunity would permit. If I am not mistaken, there is something similar to what I here hint at in our naval instructions; if so, the unfinished matter is, to hit off some rule or expedient for having such discoveries as are made, published for the good of the community; and to have the same instructions given to all the revenue cutters who constantly hover on the coast, *that they shall dedicate a part of their time to make such discoveries by sounding, &c. all which must appear on the face of their journals.*

If conservators are appointed, those very conservators would be the proper people to whom all discoveries of that nature should be immediately transmitted; and they, in course of duty, would annually lay them before the committee of accounts, or any other competent board or committee of enquiry of parliament, who would of course order such part to be published as they should think prudent; for which purpose a standing committee might be appointed in parliament, to stand for two years, and so to continue, or be renewed from session to session.

To think it possible to govern, so very extensive a branch of public business, without well-weighed regulations, is absolutely impossible. The matter is of too much moment to be trifled away. I am bold to say, that it is scarcely possible for the nation, to form a competent idea, of this very weighty business. Time, and time only, can verify the greatest part of my assertions. Should this matter be allowed once more, to fall into another paroxysm of lethargic slumber, it is probable it may continue in it, for another 113 years. Or should the public be animated, to give it a tryal on this occasion, and for want of proper support, encouragement, and regulation, miscarry, or dwindle to nothing; no human force will ever be able to drag them to adventure again,

By the 15th of *Geo. III.* ch. 31. All *British* subjects are entitled to fish, and cure their fish, on the shores of *Newfoundland*, by being included under the title of his Majesty's subjects, and dominions in *Europe*. But by the 9th and 10th section, of the same act after the 1st of *September*, 1775, Ships belonging to *Ireland*, are specifically mentioned, and it is enacted, that the *Irish* " shall enjoy the
" privilege of importing into *Great Britain* Du-
" TY FREE, Oil, Blubber, Whale-fins, and Seal-
" skins, raw or undressed, actually caught by them,
" IN ANY PART OF THE OCEAN."

This very expression, though it seems to need no explanation, has been cavilled upon at Customhouses respecting those very articles; as have sundry other matters full as clear, been objected to, at *Newfoundland*, which proved very detrimental to the *Irish* fishers; as it is only they who are ever obstructed or challenged, for even the
most

most trivial circumstances ; of course, are frequently
subject to confiscation, FOR, IN FACT, NO OFFENCE ;
 and merely proceeds from the want of a few words,
 such as, *General Neccessaries, Seamens Apparel, Slops,*
 and *proper Ships Stores.* These words would in-
 clude every article now cavilled upon. It is enacted
 by the 5th section of the aforesaid act.—“ That it
 “ shall be lawful, for his Majesty’s subjects of *Ire-*
 “ *land,* to transport directly, from thence to *New-*
 “ *foundland,* or any part of *America,* where the
 “ fishery is carried on, any Provisions, Hooks,
 “ Lines, Netting, or other tools or implements,
 “ necessary for, and used in the fishery, by the
 “ crews of the vessels carrying out the same, be-
 “ ing the product, or manufacture of *Great Bri-*
 “ *tain, Ireland, or Isle of Man,* respectively as the
 “ fact may be ; and that the several articles before
 “ mentioned, (*except the provisions which are un-*
 “ *derstood, may be disposed of at pleasure*) specify-
 “ ing the quantities and particulars of each sort,
 “ which are to be used in the fishery, by the crews
 “ of the respective ship or vessel, carrying out the
 “ same, or by the craft by them employed and to
 “ them belonging, and for no other use or purpose
 “ whatsoever: on failure the ships to be forfeited.
 “ After the first of *January, 1776,* All fishing
 “ ships, or vessels cleared out as such, in pursuance
 “ of this act, or of the before-mentioned act of
 “ 10th and 11th of *William the third,* and which
 “ shall be actually employed in the fishery there,
 “ or any boat or craft whatsoever, employed in car-
 “ rying coastways in order to be landed, or put on
 “ board any ship or vessel, any fish, oil, salt, pro-
 “ visions, or other necessaries, for the use and pur-
 “ pose of that fishery, shall not be liable to any
 “ restraint or regulation, with respect to days or
 “ hours of working ; nor to make any entry at the
 custom-

“ customhouse at *Newfoundland*, except a report
 “ to be made by the master, on his first arrival
 “ there, and at his clearing out from thence; and
 “ that a fee, not exceeding 2s. 6d. shall and may
 “ be taken by the officers of the customs at *New-*
 “ *foundland*, for each such report; and that no
 “ other fee shall be taken or demanded, by any
 “ officer of customs there, upon any other pretence
 “ whatsoever, relative to the said fishery; any law,
 “ custom, or usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.
 “ Provided always, that in case any such
 “ fishing ship or vessel, shall at her last clearing
 “ out from the said Island of *Newfoundland*, have
 “ on board, or export any goods or merchandize
 “ whatsoever, except fish, or oil made of fish,
 “ such ship or vessel, and the goods therein laden,
 “ shall be subject, and liable to the same securities,
 “ restrictions, and regulations, in all respects, as
 “ they would have been subject and liable to, if
 “ this act had not been made; any thing herein
 “ before contained to the contrary notwithstanding.”

I conclude it must be the latter part of this
 clause, which has given birth to several of the
 hardships complained of, at this hour, *by Irish fish-*
ers, who resort to Newfoundland to fish. The offi-
 cers of the customs are so very strict, *that they will*
not allow them so much, as a spare square of glass,
a side of bend, or skin of leather, though absolutely
 necessary for a thousand uses, in case of accident,
 or to repair pumps, &c. *A couple of pair of new*
shoes, though for the actual use of the Mariner;
 nay, *Irish spirits,* though absolutely exempt from
 duty, *if even the quantity of two bottles,* will sub-
 ject the ship to confiscation; or at least, the mas-
 ter to be harassed, and run to vast expence.

Whereas the duty receivable on spirits in *America*, is fixed at 1s. per gallon, by a clause in the 15th of *Geo. 3d. viz.* "That after the 1st of Jan. 1776, for every gallon of Rum or other spirits, which shall be brought or imported into the Island of *Newfoundland*, from any *British* Colony or Plantation, on the Continent of *America*, the sum of 1s. sterl. shall be collected, and be received, and taken, according to the proportion of 5s. 6d. the ounce of silver." How this can possibly be construed to include *Irish* Spirits; or officers can be warranted in giving trouble to ships on that score, is to me incredible! *Irish* spirits being not subject to duty in *America*, is one of the advantages which Sir *Lucius O'Brien* enumerates, peculiar to *Ireland*, by the 15th of *Geo. the 3d.* And yet *Irish* Ships have been stopped, for less than a single gallon of *Irish* spirits, and that in bottles.

They farther pretend to be impowered, to arbitrate the quantity of candles, to be used by the crew; so that it often happens, that they are run short before the voyage is out. They carry matters to such extremes as not to allow them to have a sufficiency of tallow in cask, to greave the ship if requisite, or grease their cordage and running tackle. As every one of these articles, with many others, actually come under the denomination of provisions, or ship's stores; such provision or regulation ought now to be made, as to put every matter of this kind out of doubt; especially as all the indulgence expected is, only to be put upon the same footing with the *British* fishers.

For my part, I cannot conceive any thing farther necessary, than the oath of the master at entry, declaring

declaring what he has on board, for the use of the voyage, fishery, and crew. Which oath, if he violates, he ought to be liable to penalties; but not till then. *Biscuit from England, receives a bounty, while biscuit from Ireland pays a duty; notwithstanding that Irish provisions, are declared exempted, or duty free, by the 15th of Geo. the 3d.*

It would be well, if possible, to ascertain the duties claimable by the officers of customs, at *Newfoundland*; for notwithstanding there was a special clause, inserted with such a title, the very last session, the 16th of *Geo. the 3d.* I defy any man to tell me, what are the duties receivable.

These wants of explanation, lead officers to entail hardships on masters, in order to make them comply with exorbitant demands. Every demur is well known, to tend to the prejudice of the owners.

I propose enumerating all the trammels or grievances, in their proper place, as well as such estimates, as may serve for the government of adventurers, and information of the legislature: therefore I shall drop this subject for the present, in order to state a few heads, and circumstances, relative to the *Whale-fisheries*; but especially relative to that part of the *Whale-fishery, which can be carried on from the coast of Donegal, and in the Irish Seas*: for which, I hope to see an ample encouragement established, at least, for a certain number of years.

As there are already many well-calculated acts, for encouraging the *Whale-fishery, both to Greenland, David's Streights, the Gulph of St. Laurence, and the Labrador Coast*, I shall not swell this tract

with any thing, which with propriety can be omitted.

I wish to apprise *this nation*, how consequential it may prove to the *general good*, that the *Whale-fishery* be properly encouraged on this coast: for which purpose I shall state a brief narrative of what other nations do, which will in a great degree point out what we ought to do, in order to promote so advantageous a business.

In a former passage I touched upon the Whale fishery, and dated the commencement in the reign of *Q. Elizabeth*, in 1598, and shewed that the *English* enjoyed it solely, till the reign of *James* the first, in 1612, when the *Dutch* sent out their first single ship. The success of that year emboldened them to send more ships the next. In 1613, we disputed the privilege, and took two of their ships. But this did not deter them, for they still continued sending ships to the fishery.

In 1617, we attacked them a second time; but instead of taking any of theirs, they took one of our ships; which was afterwards restored.— They sent deputies to the King in order to settle the point for the future. The King declined giving any direct decision, but not encouraging the *English* fishers to disturb the *Dutch*, they continued to fish, and avoided giving any umbrage to the *English*, but still continued to increase the number of their vessels. In proportion as they encreased, we decreased; till at last we left the *Dutch*, *Hamburghers*, and *Bremeners*, almost totally in possession of that very lucrative trade.

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In 1694, a private company was established in *England*, with a good capital, having sundry exclusive privileges granted by an act of parliament; but they miscarried for want of management.

In 1721, Sir *John Eyles*, Bart. and at his instance, Mr. *Henry Elking*, took a very particular review of the *progress and decline* of all the parties who had, or did follow that fishery, in order to digest a proper set of rules and regulations for the establishment of *A general Greenland company in England*; but such was the distraction of the times, that the project never came to maturity, or took place. Nevertheless, the subject being now re-assumed, I think it requisite to show, what progress as well as what an immense sum the *Dutch* made in the space of 50 years, since which they have still continued to encrease, viz.

In 1670, they had 148 Ships, which took 792 fish.

1671 ——— 155 ——— 631 fish.

But in 1672, 1673, and 1674, they sent out no ship, being at war with *England* and *France*. As soon as the war was at an end, they immediately recommenced the fishery, as follows, viz.

Years.	Number of Ships.	Number of Fish.	Puncheons of Oyl.
1675, they sent	148,	took 882,	produced 36,260
1676, ———	145,	— 808,	— 32,347
1677, ———	149,	— 686,	— 30,050
1678, ———	110,	— 1118,	— 44,750
			Years.

Years.		Number of Ships.		Number of Fish.		Puncheons of Oyl.
1679,	they sent	126,	took	831,	produced	39,857
1680,	—	148,	—	1373,	—	52,407
1681,	—	172,	—	889,	—	30,336
1682,	—	186,	—	1470,	—	62,960
1683,	—	241,	—	1343,	—	43,540
1684,	—	246,	—	1185,	—	44,730
1685,	—	212,	—	1383,	—	55,960
1686,	—	189,	—	639,	—	29,543
1687,	—	194,	—	617,	—	23,211
1688,	—	214,	—	345,	—	14,600
1689,	—	163,	—	243,	—	10,120
1690,	—	117,	—	818,	—	34,960

1691, No ships went out on account of the war
with *France*.

1692,	—	32,	—	62,	—	2,748
1693,	—	89,	—	175,	—	8,480
1694,	—	62,	—	156,	—	7,562
1695,	—	96,	—	201,	—	9,196
1696,	—	100,	—	380,	—	14,975
1697,	—	111,	—	1274,	—	42,281
1698,	—	140,	—	1488,	—	55,958
1699,	—	151,	—	775,	—	30,835
1700,	—	173,	—	907,	—	36,548
1701,	—	207,	—	2072,	—	67,507
1702,	—	225,	—	697,	—	24,388
1703,	—	208,	—	646,	—	24,527
1704,	—	130,	—	651,	—	23,701
1705,	—	157,	—	1664,	—	52,346
1706,	—	149,	—	452,	—	15,299
1707,	—	131,	—	128,	—	5,431
						Years.

Years.	Number of Ships.	Number of Fish.	Puncheons of Oyl.
1708, they sent	121,	took 525,	produced 20,731
1709, ———	127,	— 190,	— 8,237
1710, ———	137,	— 62,	— 3,379
1711, ———	117,	— 650,	— 20,589
1712, ———	108,	— 370,	— 14,203
1713, ———	94,	— 256,	— 12,854
1714, ———	108,	— 1234,	— 37 490
1715, ———	134,	— 696,	— 25,830
1716, ———	153,	— 519,	— 20,216
1717, ———	180,	— 391,	— 14,463
1718, ———	194,	— 281,	— 13,103
1719, ———	182,	— 308,	— 10,100
1720, ———	158,	— 412,	— 19,092
1721, ———	149,	— 667,	— 23,108
In 50 years,	<u>6,834,</u>	<u>32,908,</u>	<u>1,250,714</u>

The Whale - Bone of these fish weighed, 40,000 000 of pounds, which produced them in the above space, when added to the Oyl, 150,000,000 of guilders, — — — £.14,000,000

In 1722, there were from *Holland*,
 at *Greenland*, ——— 180 ships.
 ————— from *Hamburgb*, 52
 ————— from *Bremen*, 24

I dare say that almost every reader must be astonished at this account—yet as it may be depended upon, let them but consider for a moment what we have lost, *by inattention*—as well as reflect, in what estimation these very *Eastland* fishers, must hold

hold us, or our complaints of general poverty as a nation, *while we let such a torrent of wealth run to waste.*

That there is plenty of Whale on our north and north-west coast, is not to be doubted.—The trade wants nothing more than to be once set on foot by a few adventurers, to make it in a very short space, general : Or, at least, equal to our own interior demands, for the sundry articles produced from Whales.

As the bounties now stand regulated, both as to the equipment and season, no advantage can be derived by the *Irish* adventurers, for fishing on this coast. Of course, one of the material objects to be attended to, is, the stipulating such encouragements, and bounties, as will tally with the seasons in which these fish frequent and are to be met with on the *Irish* coasts.

The consumption of Oil in *Ireland*, since the almost general paving and lighting act, is become much more considerable than ever it was before ; it is a matter we are sure must encrease in proportion as inland towns go on improving.

As Oil is now become an indispensable article, is it not our duty to endeavour to keep the money which it would cost abroad, amongst the poor people at home ; this article only, must produce many thousands of pounds, besides employing many thousand individuals ; all of whom may live well, in consequence of their labour.

To limit the matter to our own consumption, is not doing the cause justice ;—for if the *Dutch* find
a good

a good account, after going a long voyage, &c. we must in a very little time find it turn to not only a much better, but be able even to export great quantities.

When the first tonnage bounties on the Whale ships were granted in *England*, it was fixed at 50 s. per ton for a number of years; and in course of time reduced to 40, then to 30, at which it now stands, and will continue till the 25th *December*, 1781, and in all probability will finish at the expiration of the 20s. bounty, which ends the 25th of *December*, 1786.

Thus let us have a gradation of premiums—for a fixed number of years—as well as a gradation of bounties—upon the same plan as the *English* bounties were originally, which will undoubtedly insure the establishment of the fishery upon condition that the fishing seasons, and time of continuing to fish, as well as the proportion of tackle, and provisions, be reasonably suited, as follows:

The season for this fishery on the *Irish* coast, is from the 10th of *April*, to the 10th or 15th of *June*—Whales are seldom or ever seen on this coast, either before or after that period. As there is no ice to encounter in our seas, there is no need of double bottoms to the ships,—no ship should be less than 100 or 120, nor to exceed 200 ton.

One half of the *Greenland* regulation of time, lines, harpoons, tackle, and provisions, may be dispensed with; as such matters should be regulated accordingly; and lastly, proper boiling-houses should be erected, for the general good,

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and

and conveniency of the public, on such spots as should be found most convenient for the purpose, under proper regulations. Of course, all laws, restrictions, &c. should be rendered as plain and easy as possible, in order to facilitate the prosecution of the business. Five premiums ought to be established for the five greatest quantities of Oil brought in by the fishers, whether the produce be from Whale, Sun-fish, Cod, Dog-fish, Skate, or any other animal living in the sea.

The proper superintendence of the three fisheries, of which I have endeavoured to give an account, is such as will afford full employ to more than one, two, or three sets of people, who we may safely venture to assert will find little spare time for the first years. Every one of the four *Dutch* marine provinces have a regular fishery board, established for the dispatch of every thing relative to the fishing business, called a *fishing chamber*, to each of which there is a conservator and a certain number of assistants, clerks, &c. I need say little more now, than to conclude with the following solid narrative and argument.

In 1636, the *Dutch* having been guilty of great incroachments, in regard to fisheries on our coast, King *Charles* issued a proclamation, prohibiting their fishing on our coast; nevertheless they disregarded the King's proclamation, upon a presumption of right, derived under no solid pretext, than a wonted toleration from some of his predecessors.

In order to make them sensible of their error, the King found it necessary to order the earl of *Northumberland*, with a strong fleet to proceed to the Northward, where the *Dutch* buffes were very busy

busy at work ; and having required them to desist in pursuance of the proclamation : as they did not readily obey, he took some, sunk others, and put the rest to flight.

After this they solicited the Lord High Admiral, to intercede for them with the King, for leave to continue their fishing, for that season only, for which they would pay his majesty 30,000 l. which they paid accordingly. They farther offered to pay the like annual tribute for ever ; but the proposal was rejected.

Let us reflect for a moment, what 30,000 l. a year at that time ought to be estimated at in our day ? surely, little less than 100,000 l.

Is there then any reason that can be urged, in justification of our unpardonable inattention, in allowing such an annual sum to sleep for 141 years ; or for neglecting a business which the *Dutch* thought worth such a rent ?—If we now estimate the loss at what such a sum really would have amounted to, with its accumulated compound interest at this day ; suppose only the 30,000 l. per ann. it would now amount to 16,569,158 l. but at the 100,000 l. it would have amounted to 55,230,528 l.

If we add to all this, the sums which the sundry handicrafts would have gained in that space, the loss is scarcely conceivable.

The sundry trades, that would have subsisted in consequence of the fishery, would have been ship-carpenters, joiners, and smiths ; seamen, fishermen, and innumerable land-men ; such as coopers, salters, salt-works, brewers, bakers, butchers,

rope-works, sail-makers, line-makers, net-makers, tackle-makers of all kinds, carriers, &c. and all their families; most of whom from the age of 8 years old, might have found employ in some shape or other; in all which number I have not estimated the merchant, factor, or men of landed property, on and through whose estates the produce of fish must have made its transit, and of course have left its good effects distributed in every quarter.

If considerations, and facts, such as are here set forth, are not capable of rousing the nation, to a true sense of their interest; no man on earth, ought either to pity or regard, any future complaint of want of commerce, or of the decay of any one branch of business, now supposed of national consequence. For my own part, should I be considered in any degree, capable of furthering the matter by any assistance in my power; I shall esteem myself highly honoured, in being permitted to fulfill legislatures commands. I have still two more national objects, which I should wish to bring upon the carpet, little less interesting to community, than the fisheries. They are points, which I shall be ready to answer, when called upon, *viz.* The advancement of the consumption of the linen manufactures of this Kingdom, by exportation; and the thorough reformation of the coal business, at importation. Both which, I flatter myself, I can prove to be within a very easy scale of practice, though at scarce any significant expence to the nation.

I should imagine that individuals would now think seriously of their past neglects, and endeavour to retrieve them by future attention.

Legislature

Legislature, I am confident, will find its account in the establishment of the fisheries at a future day.

No branch is, can, or ever will be of consequence, equal to the fisheries, if properly followed. It will employ every industrious hand in the nation—It will make a very generous, and ample return, to the adventurer—Its general good effects, will soon be experienced, by almost every species of handicraftsmen as it will furnish the merchant with an abundance of spare cash, with which he may lend a hand to the linen manufacturer, or grazier. &c. &c. &c.

The general intercourse of men, will naturally circulate a part of the profits, with the farmer and grazier; of course, the landlord will experience the good effects, by seeing his rents regularly paid; and I may safely prognosticate, without using a single spell, that lands will increase in value, in proportion as the nation grows opulent; consequently, no one needs be surpris'd, when he sees lands in general, take as sudden a rise, in point of years purchase, as they did in both *England* and *Scotland*, soon after the *East-India* Company established the astonishing, and new devised manufacture, on the *Carnatick*, in the *Eastern* world—of *Nabob-making*.

HIBERNIA'S sons and daughters will have one pleasing advantage over those *Asiatic* great men, that when they have performed their annual feats, and slain their tens, hundreds, and millions of thousands, they may go safely to rest, without the smallest apprehension of being disturbed in their slumbers, by the phantoms of any of the departed *Aquatic Monarchs*, or subjects.

The

The profits derived by their industry, will raise laurels in their gardens, to dress their bow-pots in *Summer*, and their kitchens at *Christmas*; they will be laurels of peace, and not of massacre! each individual, will be fully enabled to deck his board plenteously, as well as comfortably provide for, or establish his rising posterity.

Profits, laurels, and fortunes thus acquired, will bring with them such a blessing, as will afford every one a double satisfaction, who sees himself amply enriched, without a single sting of remorse, to disturb his happy hours of domestic felicity. Nothing will occur to him upon serious reflection, but that he has already, and in future, hopes to encompass miriads of fishes.

We observe solemn annual commemorations of fatal days, which at different periods, have stamped destruction, and mowed down thousands of the original inhabitants of this kingdom.—Why not take the earliest opportunity, of appropriating a day, to celebrate the establishment of its future happiness, by the laudable opening of such an inexhaustible channel of wealth, as the fisheries will prove, to every industrious individual?

The ancient *Atbenians*, allegorically attributed the prosperous rise, of their stupendous towers, to the joint benevolence of *Neptune*, and *Minerva*; the one, as sovereign of inexhaustible riches, attainable through the influence of *Minerva*, who, as goddess of Wisdom, enables their inhabitants to compass whatever riches they require from the Ocean.

Have we not a laudable annual precedent, from the *Venetians*? Their *Doge* is with the greatest solemnity,

lemnity, married every *Ascension Day*, to the *Adriatic Sea*.

After duly attending to what is here set forth, we have much more reason, solemnly to espouse the generous *Nereids*, who surround our coast, and most indefatigably for these centuries past, have held their Cornicopias suspended over us, waiting our nod, to teem plenty and riches on our shores, to the utmost of even our most wanton wishes.

Bad advocates, too frequently, spoil a good cause. —Bad writers, who endeavour to confute long prevailing errors, and opinions, of either obstinate, or indolent men, often do more harm than good. Their zeal is laudable, but prudence should stop their pens.

Vague declamation, is not sufficiently solid, to confute able self-interested, or stubborn sophisters. As such, I chearfully and humbly resign the subject, to the serious protection and handling of men of knowledge, method, precision, and influence; for no fewer talents are requisite, to give this matter its proper vigour. So I conclude with the original motto,

C A R P E D I E M.

*The man will take To-day, who's truly wise,
For in Fate's dreary womb, To-morrow lies.*

Account of BOUNTIES, PREMIUMS, and
DRAWBACKS, now standing, for the encourage-
ment of the Fisheries of this Kingdom, ex-
clusive of the DUBLIN SOCIETY Premiums.

ANNUAL tonnage bounty in the herring fishery, to craft
or vessels, from 20 to 100 ton. 20s. per ton.

Bounties on cured fish, by the 5th of *Geo. III.* ch. 7.

The barrel of white herrings of 32 gallons, 2s.

Do. of Mackarel of do. — 2s. 6d.

Dried Ling, every 6 score — — 5s.

Dried Hake, do. — — 3s.

Haddock, Glassing, Coal, or Congor the 6 score 3s.

The Tierce of 42 Gallons of well-cured wet fish, 4s. 3d.¹/₄.

Annual Premiums to ships in the *Newfoundland* Cod-fishery.

The first 20 which arrive the £40 each.

The next 40 do. — 20 do.

The next 40 do. — 10 do.

Annual bounty to Ships in the Whale fishery, by 3. G. 3. c. 24.

Bounty per ton of Whale Oil £3 0 0

do. do. of Oil from any fish 1 10 0

do. per Hundred wt. of Whale bone 4 0 0

At the first establishment of tonnage bounties to ships in the
Whale fishery the bounty was 50s. per ton.—Expired.

Then reduced to 40s. per ton.—Expired 25. *Dec.* 1776.

Then reduced to 30s. per ton.—At which it now stands,
but will expire, 25th of *Dec.* 1781.

Then to be reduced to 20s. per ton, and to continue for
5 years longer.—So will expire the 25th. *Dec.* 1786.

Premiums to vessels employed in the Whale fishery, on
the *Gulph* of *St. Lawrence*, *Coast* of *Labrador*, *New-*
foundland, or in any of the Seas, to the South of
David's Streights, or of Latitude 44 degrees North. Kil-
ling one Whale at least, in said Latitudes,

For the greatest quantity of Oil taken by 1 ship, £500

For the second great quantity — — 400

For the third great quantity — — 300

For the fourth great quantity — — 200

For the fifth great quantity — — 100

The MEASUREMENT of a VESSEL in order to ascertain her tunnage agreeable to the METHOD used in the RIVER THAMES, according to the REPORT of the OFFICERS in LONDON.

THE length of the keel to be taken on a straight line along the rabbet of the keel of the vessel from the back of the main stern post, to a perpendicular let fall from the forepart of the main stem under the bowsprit, from which subtract *Three-fifths*, of the extreme breadth and the remainder is esteemed the just length of the keel to find the tunnage. The breadth is to be taken from the outside of the outside plank in the broadest part of the ship, be it either above or below the main wales, exclusive of all manner of doubling plank that may be wrought on the sides of the ship. By this breadth the tunnage is cast, by multiplying the length of the keel by the breadth, and that product by the half breadth, and then divide by 94, which gives the tuns required.

THE operation would be as follows, supposing the length taken as above directed to be 50 feet, and the breadth 15 feet.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 15 \quad 50 \\
 \underline{3} \quad \underline{9} \\
 5)45(9 \quad 41 \\
 \quad 15 \\
 \quad \underline{\quad} \\
 \quad 205 \\
 \quad 41 \\
 \quad \underline{\quad} \\
 \quad 615 \\
 \quad 75 \\
 \quad \underline{\quad} \\
 \quad 3075 \\
 \quad 4305 \\
 \quad \underline{\quad} \\
 94)4612,5(49 \\
 \quad 376 \\
 \quad \underline{\quad} \\
 \quad 852 \\
 \quad 846
 \end{array}$$

It is to be observed in this operation that the breadth 15 is multiplied by 3 and divided by 5 in order to find out three-fifths of the breadth, which being 9 is deducted from 50 the length taken in the manner prescribed, and there remains 41 the just length of the keel to compute the tunnage by. This being multiplied by 15 the breadth, and the product being multiplied by 7,5 half the breadth, and the last product being divided by 94 gives 49 tuns as the true tunnage of the vessel, exclusive of fractions.

A. T. R. A. E.

—15, line 3, *r.* or even jealous neighbours.
—22, line 24, *r.* 4 pence per barrel.
—22, line 28, *r.* *Eastland*.
—38, line 17, *r.* *Maize* instead of *Maine*.
—43, line 27, *r.* *Earl Danby*, instead of *Darby*.

$$\begin{array}{r} 205 \\ \times 12 \\ \hline 410 \\ 2050 \\ \hline 2460 \end{array}$$

41
22 JY 63
615
75
3075

842
842
—
370
2142.5(10)
—
4300

